Theo. Berken

THE EXPERIMENTAL LITURGIES OF

The Community of

CHRIST THE SERVANT

— Lutheran Church in America

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THE EUCHARIST

Written and compliled for use by
THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST THE SERVANT
Downers Grove, Lombard, Illinois.

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THE PREPARATION

PRELUDE & HYMN

CONFESSION

Pastor: In the Name of God

People: . . . We come to worship as the church

Pastor: Because we are here to receive the special grace of Jesus Christ in His Supper, we must prayerfully inquire of ourselves if we have lived the trust we have professed. We acknowledge that, at our worst, we live as though we had never been loved by God, and, at best, as though on the verge of joy and hope. Yet we are so often overcome by our own sense of guilt. Let us pray that we may be free.

Pastoral Prayer for Freedom

O, God, Creator and Sustainer of our lives, we come to admit that we have not lived up to that which we have freely decided to be: We have not been able to deal with the devastations of our consciences, and we know we are in need of a fresh release within the depth of our being. Allow us the priviledge this day of hearing once again the words of Your Fatherly compassion. Tell us again that we are Your children, and within that relationship remind us that we are fully accepted.

The Prayer of the People

As we approach the banquet feast of Your forgiveness and reconciliation, O God, we gladly put on the clothes of joyful repentance. We remember that our Lord took upon Himself our humanity and through the cross of His suffering freed all men to love and serve. As we are bless'd, so we bless others; as we are loved, so we love others, as we are reconciled to You, O Father, through Your Son, so we become reconcilers of the world. So may it be!

11/85 gift - Platt

THE ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As a minister of the One Holy Catholic Church, I now declare that you are forgiven; you are made free to use your life in love and service to your brother if you will allow yourself to first be loved and served by God. May the grace of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit attend you. Amen.

80021

THE INTROIT FOR THE DAY (An announcement from scripture of the theme of the day)

PRAYER FOR MERCY (KYRIE)

Ray Repp

C Am F G7 C Am F G7 C Am
All: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have

F - G7 - C Am F G7 C Am F G7
Fine
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have

C Am F G7 C Am D7 G7
D.S. al Fine
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Pastor: We praise Your Name, O Father, We glorify Your Name, O Christ, and sing the joyful Alleluia of true sonship.

SONS OF GOD [1]

James Thiem

KEY: F CAPO: 1st PLAY: E

Refrain

F (E) Dm (C#m) B♭ (A) C7 (B7) F (E) Dm (C#m)
Sons of God, hear his ho - ly Word! Gath - er 'round the

B♭ (A) C7 (B7) F (E) Dm (C#m) B♭ (A) C7 (B7)
ta - ble of the Lord! Eat his Bod - y, drink his Blood,

F (E) Dm (C#m) B♭ (A) C7 (B7)
And we'll sing a song of love: Al - le-

F (E) Dm (C#m) B♭ (A) C7 (B7)
lu, al - le - lu, al - le - lu, al - le - lu -

F (E) Dm (C#m) B♭ (A) C7 (B7) F (E) B♭ (A) F (E)
1 6 7
ia! ia!

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

THE EPISTLE (New Testament letter)

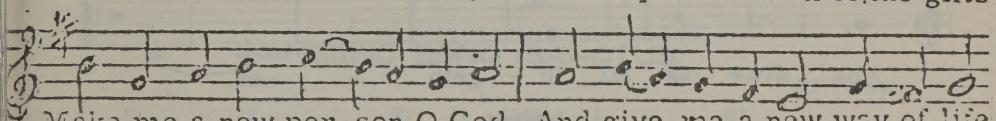
THE GOSPEL (Good News)
All sing before Gospel: Glory to You, O Lord
All sing after Gospel: Praise to You, O Christ

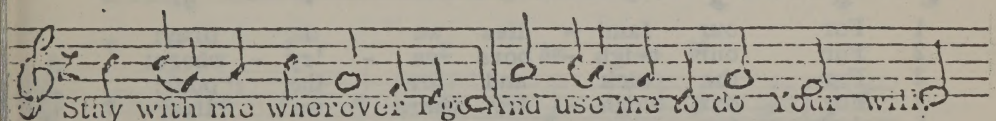
THE CREED
Nicene Creed page 45

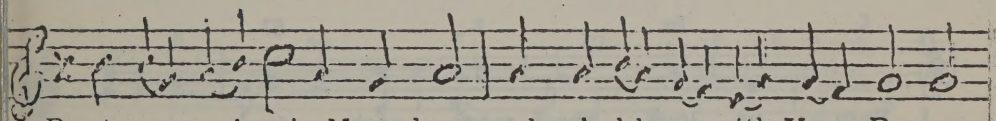
HYMN

THE SERMON

OFFERTORY response (sung by all at the presentation of the gifts







THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

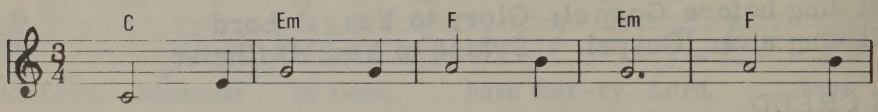
(During the Prayer it is appropriate to make either verbal or silen intercession for people and/or conditions of man. A brief period silent intercession and petition may be announced at this time.)

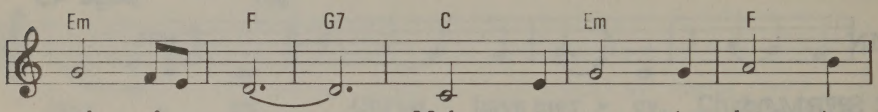
The intercessions may also be sung by the congregation, using the following tune; "God the Father."

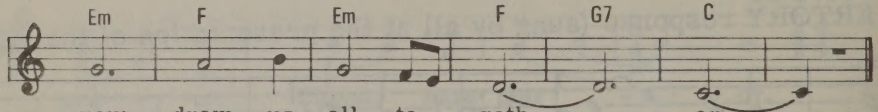
GOD THE FATHER[1]

Ray Repp

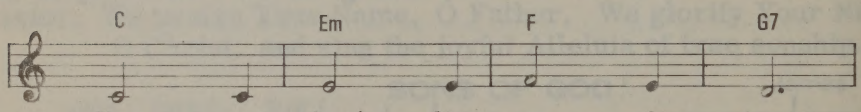
Refrain



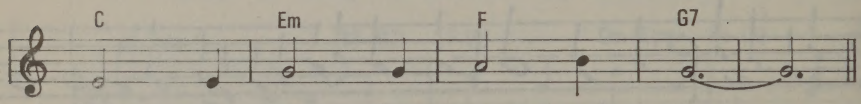




Verses



1 For our fam' - lies we do pray:
2 For our neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where:
3 For the sick and for the poor:
4 For our coun - try where we live:
5 And for peace in ev - 'ry land:



1 Help us love them more each day.
2 Help us show them that we care.
3 Show us how to share much more.
4 Help us know the way to give.
5 May we lend our help - ing hand.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (together as one voice)

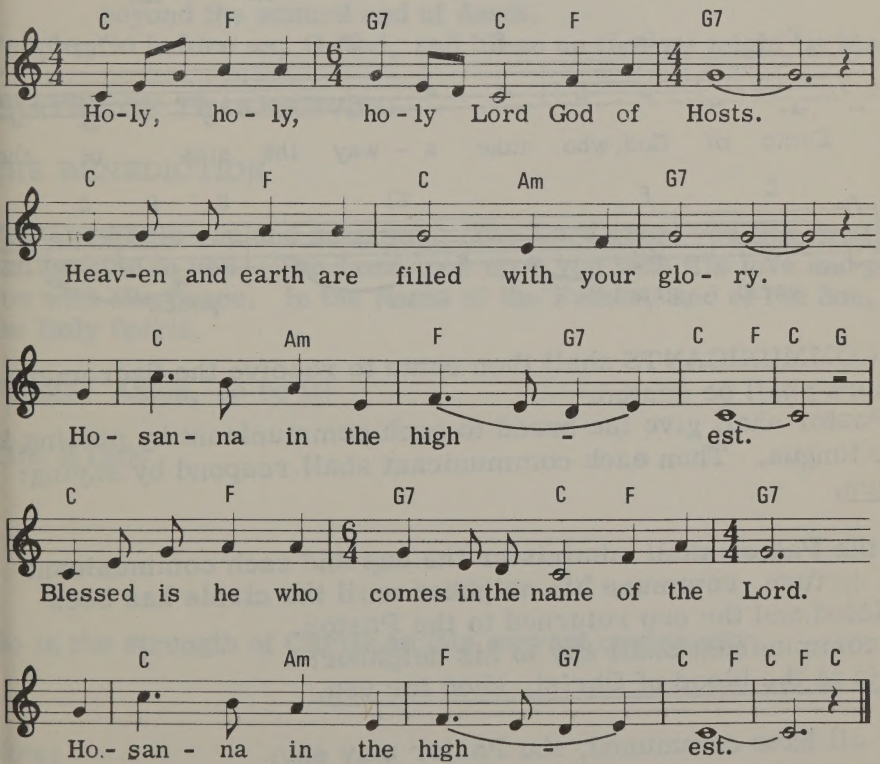
Our Father in heaven, Holy be Your Name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC BANQUET

Pastor: May the Lord be with you
People: And you as well.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts
People: We do so in trust and joy
Pastor: With Isaiah of old, let us sing the praises of God together.

ANGELIC SONG (SANCTUS)

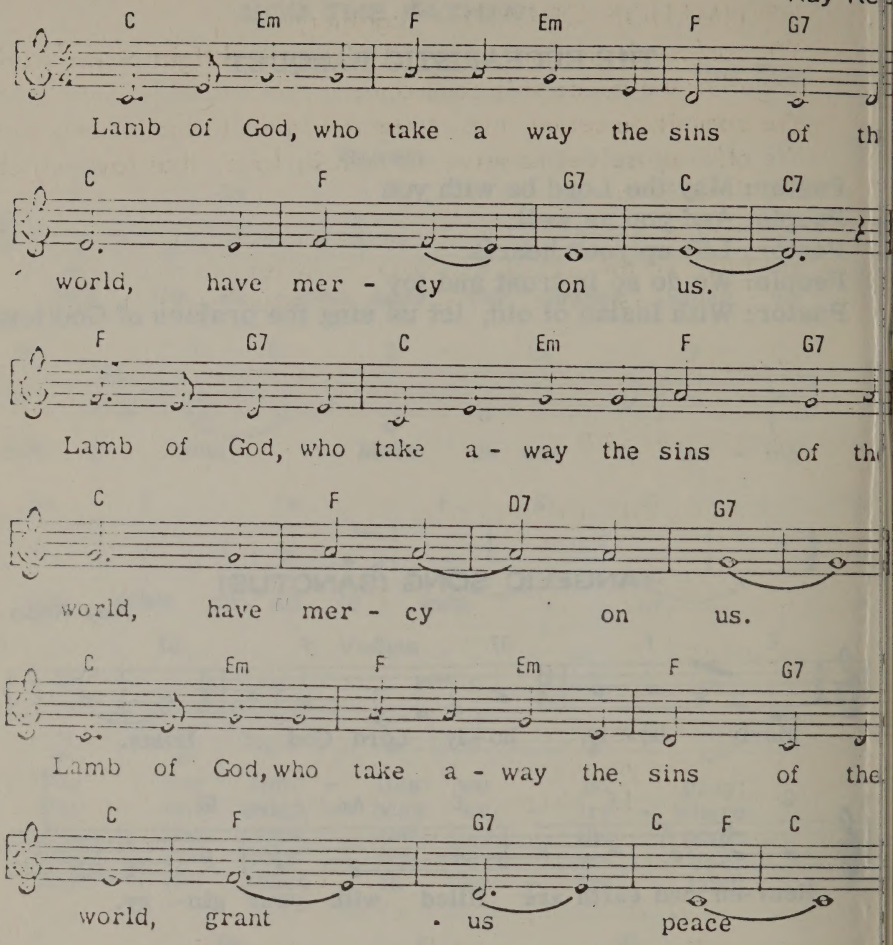
Ray Repp



THE WORDS OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

SONG TO THE LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

Ray Re



THE COMMUNICANTS shall then come to receive the Sacrament. Others shall be seated.

The Pastor shall give the bread to each communicant by placing i on the tongue. Then each communicant shall respond by saying:

Amen.

Then the Pastor shall administer the cup and each communicant shall, in turn, commune his neighbor until the circle has been completed and the cup returned to the Pastor.

Each communicant shall say to his neighbor:

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

After all have communed, the Pastor may say:

Go now in peace, refreshed and renewed by the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

THE MISSION OF THE RENEWED COMMUNITY

Pastor: I saw the Lord in the temple,
his angel took a coal from the altar
and he touched my mouth and said,
see, this has touched your lips,
Your guilt is gone, your sin forgiven.
And the Lord said, Whom shall I send?
Then I said, Here am I; send me.
People: The Lord be with us and send us into life
Pastor: In exposure and safe haven,
in atoms unseen and space beyond,
in all proud and humble conquests
People: Be with us, O Lord, and send us as Servants of Yours
Pastor: Where men gather or never meet,
where deeds are noisy or discreet,
where even quiet love prevails,
People: Be with us, O Lord, and provide us with strength
Pastor: In routine and celebration,
in fatigue and in exhilaration,
beyond the adsurd end of death,
People: Go before us, O God, and bless us that we might be blessings.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord help you and keep you. The Lord grant you His good favor, and be kind to you. The Lord look upon you with His love and provide you with His peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen, so be it!

THE HYMN

Go in the strength of Christ as His servant community.

Note:
This worship and Eucharist is a composite from the inventive pens of many. Acknowledgement should be made and thanks given to Prof. John Arthur, Thomas Willis and Ray Repp.

WORSHIP ON A SUNDAY

The Community of Christ the Servant
Downers Grove & Lombard, Illinois.

PRELUDE and silent prayer

SONG OF ENTRANCE

Pastor: We are here...

People: ...in the Name of God.

Pastor: In the Name of Jesus Christ, let us all be the Church

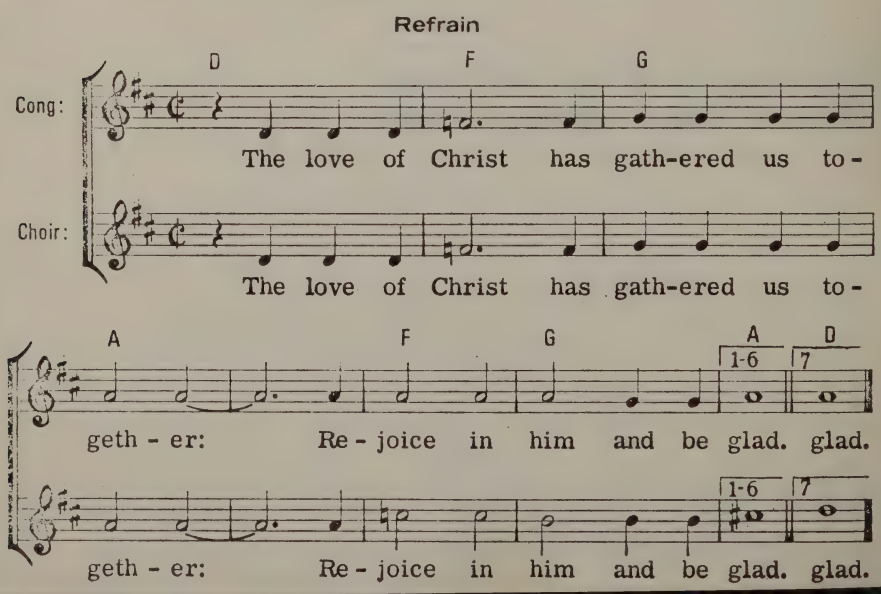
People: Forgive us, God. We're often stubborn fools and liars; dishonest even within ourselves. We don't love each other. We war against life as though we didn't like it or realize that You gave it. We hurt each other. We're sorry for it. We need to reafirm our life and come together to sense Christ's acceptance of us all. We need that new Way of Life.

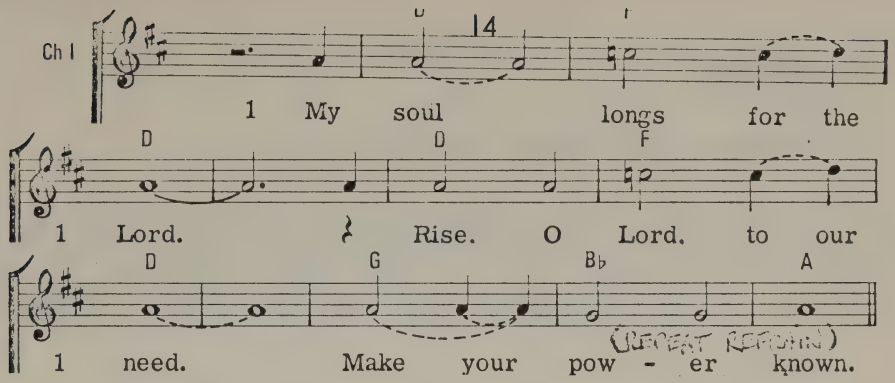
Pastor: Giver of Life, help us, and heal us!

People: Spirit of God, speak to us and help us to listen not only to You but to each other. You know how deaf we can be! Make These Moments Full!

Pastor: Let us sing our praise!

Ray Repp





PASTORAL words of absolution to the church, and, each in turn, taking the hand of the person(s) around you, say: (name), I accept you as a brother (sister) in Christ!

THE KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us talk with God. R/ Lord have mercy.

Pastor: Let us ask Him for the power which will acknowledge that we are always His children. R/ Lord have mercy.

Pastor: Let us ask for peace in this world; for churches obedient to His will, and for our divisions to come to an end. R/ Lord have mercy.

Pastor: Let us ask for His presence in this house that those sensitive to His Truth may see and hear Him in the lives and needs of each other. R/ Lord have mercy.

Now, let us hear the Truth of God for our day!
(be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Lay reader

THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTER

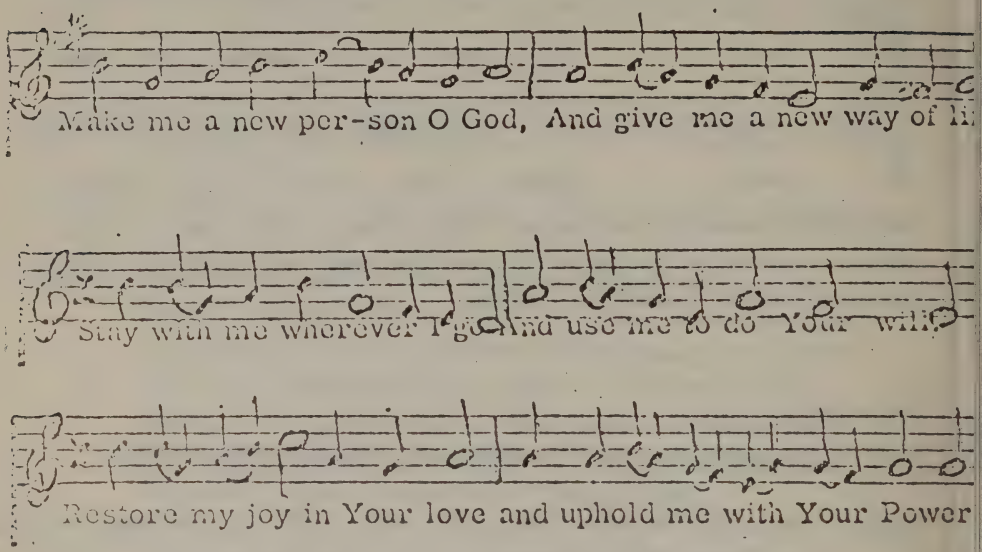
THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST
(all rise)

THE APOSTLES' CREED — page 44

THE SONG OR HYMN

THE SERMON

THE OFFERING and offertory response by all (rise)



THE INTERCESSIONS

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, holy be Your Name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us,
Save us in the time of trial, and deliver
us from evil.
For Your's is the kingdom, the power and
the glory forever.
Amen

THE BENEDICTION

THE FINAL HYMN

A LITURGY OF COMPASSION

Based on
Biblical concepts
of Love

THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST THE SERVANT
Downers Grove - Lombard, Ill.

PRELUDE

HYMN

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. R/ Amen.

Pastor: We come together as the church of Jesus Christ recognizing that He lived and died not just for the church but for the world of men, His highest creation.

People: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Pastor: We also recognize that in that great love from God we were to sense our need to first be loved and thus turned around and caused to face the needs of our brothers.

People: "We love, because He first loved us"

Pastor: Love us then, O God, in order that we may be free of our egoistic desires and liberated in the causes of your will.

People: "Whatsoever we do to the least of our brothers, that we do to You, O Father"

THE WORD OF LOVE

Pastor: The shape of Divine love comes to us in the ministry of Jesus as He said:

(People): The Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

- He who loves his life looses it.
- Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends ....
- I loved you; abide in my love.

Pastor: and those who understood that Divine love and let it run through their bodies and minds, said further:

(People): Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

- let your love be genuine
- Husbands love your wives
- Love of Christ controls us
- The fruit of the Spirit is Love
- He destined us in Love to be his sons
- Love covers a multitude of sin
- Know God, for God is love

- Perfect love casts out fear
- Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth
- If one loves God, one is known by Him

LITANY OF LOVE

Pastor: We may have the gifts of scientific prediction and understand the behaviour of molecules, we may break into the storehouses of nature and bring forth new insights

People: but devoid of love, all these mean nothing, O Lord!

Pastor: We may give our goods to feed the poor, we may bestow gifts to charity

People: but, devoid of love, all these mean nothing, O Lord!

Pastor: We may die the death of a martyr and spill our blood as a symbol of honor for generations unborn

People: but, devoid of love, all these mean nothing, O Lord!

Pastor: O Father, we must come to see that a man may be self-centered in his self-denial and self-righteous in his self-sacrifice, our generosity may feed our ego and our piety our pride

People: without love, benevolence becomes egotism and martyrdom becomes spiritual pride.

Pastor: "But the greatest of all virtues is love."

People: In a world dependent upon force, coercive tyranny, and bloody violence, we are challenged by your loving Son to follow in His love.

Pastor: and then discover that unarmed love is the most powerful force in the world.

People: Amen - so be it.

APOSTLES' CREED page 44

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

EPISTLE

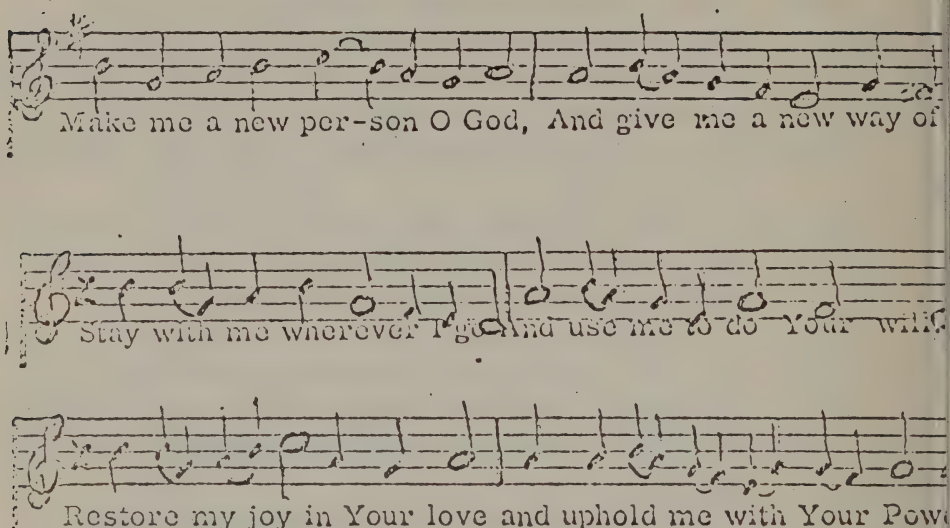
GOSPEL (All stand)

HYMN:

MEDITATION ON THEMES OF LOVE

OFFERING RECEIVED

OFFERTORY (All stand)



THE INTERCESSIONS

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

COLLECT FOR SELF-ACCEPTANCE

O God, we ask that we be given the grace to carry the burdens of our day. Let us see where we become defensive of who we think we are and then free us in Jesus Christ to become a new being. Open our eyes to the wounds, despairs and loneliness of our brothers and help us love one another by first letting ourselves become loveable, in Christ.

Amen

COLLECT FOR COMPASSION

LORD'S PRAYER (All)

Our Father in heaven, Holy be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE TO EACH OTHER

BENEDICTION

HYMN

POSTLUDE

This worship is a composite from the RSV and selections of the litany of love are from Martin Luther King's book, Strength to Love.

CELEBRATION OF

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Written and compiled for use by
THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST THE SERVANT
Lombard-Downers Grove, Illinois

THE PREPARATION

PRELUDE

HYMN

Pastor: We come this day not only to acknowledge all of the communities of man but to celebrate them as gifts from a loving God.

People: Created by God, built up in Christ, we come with special joy to search out the love by which we are loved, and to give thanks.

Pastor: So be it.

People: Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY

Father, we assemble in this place with a peculiar recognition of community. We see that we are not simply individuals, even though we realize that we have each been tended to with the special care of Your grace as if no one else existed. Yet, we sense that our individuality must make many meaningful direct contacts with others of Your children; that we are called to serve, to love, and to form into communities of all kinds. We know also that sometimes our formations may become selfish clusters which use others or seek out vested interests; we easily become ghetto's and force others to retreat from us as well. Still, we know that true loving community is Your deepest will for all on this earth. We come today with the fragments of communities within us; as couples in marriage, as generational communities in families, as peer groups, as neighbors, races and as communities of the mind and spirit; big and little communities; sometimes loving, sometimes forgetting, and asking again this day for the sight which comes through Jesus Christ to be able to perceive the brother in our midst and to reach out for his hand and spirit, and in so doing, find Your own.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE COMMUNITY

O God, the Life of all the generations of men: Look with favor upon the homes of our land; enfold husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbors, cities and nations, into the bonds of Your peace and love. Bless us wherever and whenever we

come to form the communities of man. Make our homes shelters for the defenseless, bulwards for the tempted, refreshment for the weary, and a kind of foretaste of our everlasting home in the promises of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

THE EPISTLE for the Day

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Before the Gospel all stand and say: (or sing)

Glory to You O Lord

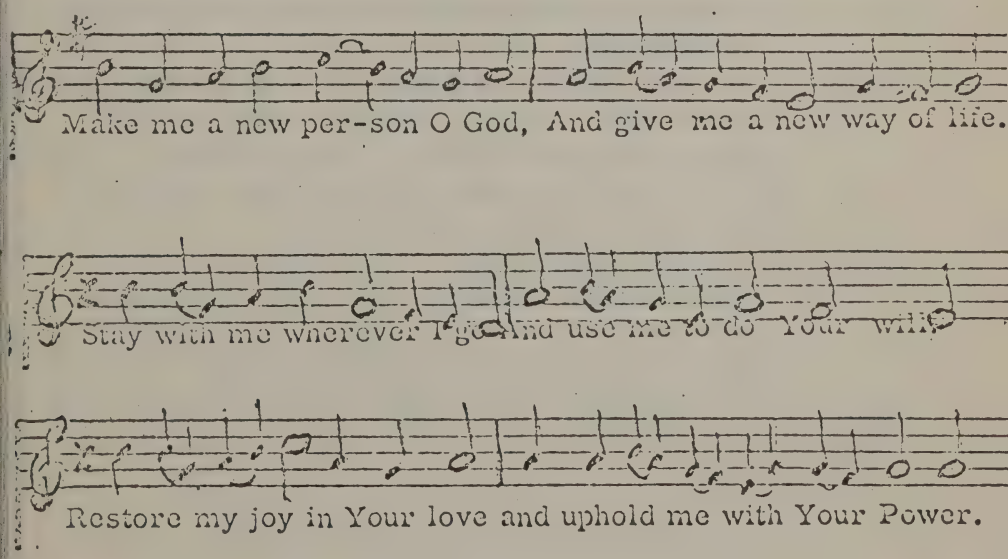
After the Gospel all say: (or sing)

Praise to You, O Christ

THE HYMN

THE SERMON (or short message for discussion within the community)

OFFERTORY response (sung by all at the presentation of the gifts at the altar)



THE PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY

Pastor: Almighty God, who has come to accept us as persons, help us to accept each other and give glory and praise to you.

People: We thank You for showing to us Your goodness and humanity in Jesus, who did not hesitate to correct the institutions of man when they were used for self-gain, and who told us that the highest form of faith in You is excercized in love for each other. We thank You that we can come together as a people.

Pastor: We thank You for the Church, catholic, for the Word alive in us, and the Sacraments shared; for Your continual renewal of the Church and for the Spirit which prompts us to serve.

People: We thank You for our Jewish-Christian biblical history which warns us against the kind of false individualism which turns us against our neighbor. We are thankful for our part in the great communion of saints in which we realize the blessings of a people united in love.

Pastor: Especially, O Lord, do we pray for our homes, that the spirit of affection and love may unite the members of all families.

People: Thank You Lord for the wisdom which has told us that we are not alone, but have husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, parents and children. Help us realize that within our family we may come to see our closest neighbor, whom Jesus has given us to love.

Pastor: Strengthen us all, Father, in Your love and help us remember daily to seek out Your very real presense. In the joy of Christian fellowship, in the happiness of family life, in the lively spirit of daily commerce, in all that we do together, let our praise of Your grace be heard.

People: So be it!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (together)

Our Father in heaven,
Holy be Your Name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE (may be included)
(A person will turn to take the hand of the one closest and say: "The Lord be with you_____"
Then the one who has received the blessing may answer: "And with you too,_____"
This "peace" may be passed on to those around you)

THE BENEDICTION

The Blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you every day. R/ Amen.

HYMN

THE SUNDAYS IN LENT

Renewal of the Covenant based upon
remembrances of Christ's Passion

The Community of Christ the Servant, 19 W 311 Butterfield,
Downers Grove, Illinois.

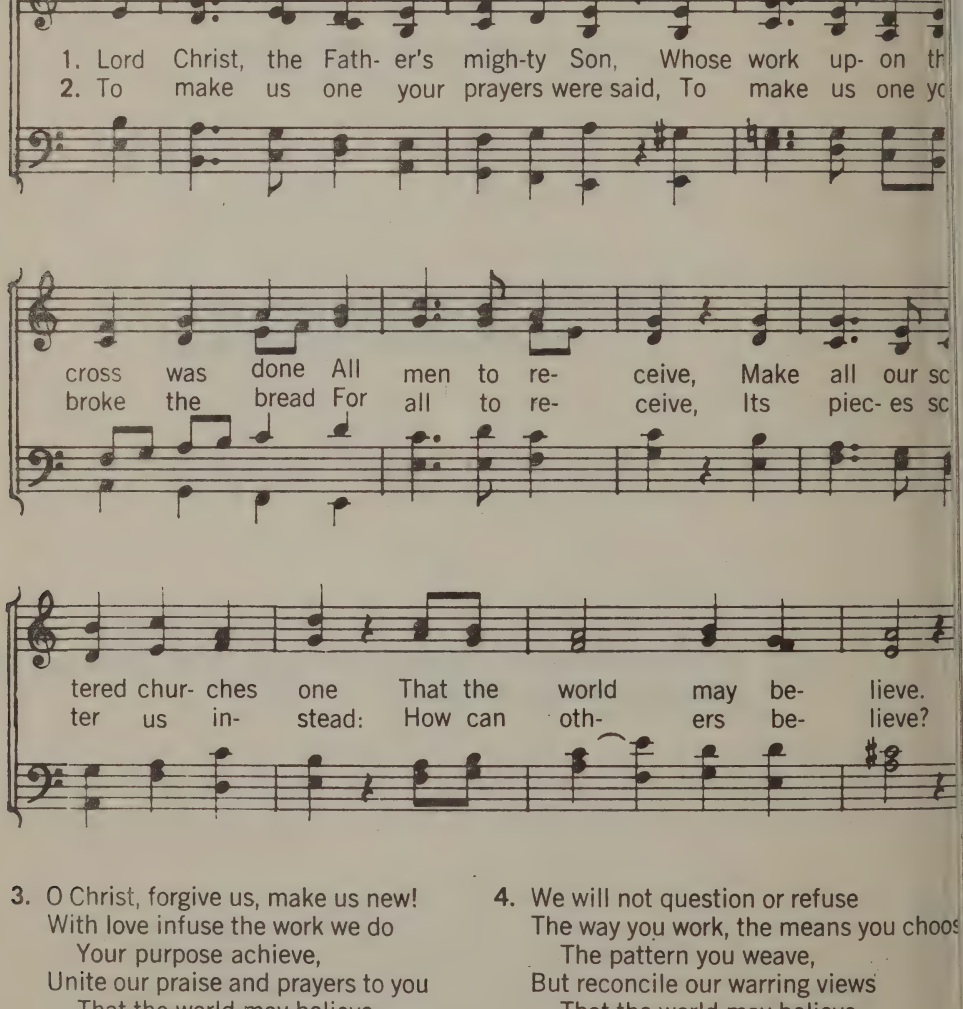
THE SUNDAYS IN LENT

PRELUDE

THEME FOR THE DAY – announced in prayer

THE LENTEN SONG OF ENTRANCE into worship

LORD CHRIST, THE FATHER'S MIGHTY SON Daniel M



3. O Christ, forgive us, make us new!
With love infuse the work we do
Your purpose achieve,
Unite our praise and prayers to you
That the world may believe.

4. We will not question or refuse
The way you work, the means you choos
The pattern you weave,
But reconcile our warring views
That the world may believe.

Brian Wren, al

Music © Lutheran Church Press; words © Scottish Churches' House

PASTORAL PRAYER

O Father, as the days of Lent call us to remember Christ's Passion, to perceive the judgement by which we were judged out of love, to sense again the hope we have even in the midst of real temptations, and to spread our palm branches of praise and awe before the One who would daily embrace us as sons and daughters, give us this hour the awareness of Your holy Presence and cause us to renew the Covenant of Your unending love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY PRAYER

We come to glory in the grace which is ours in Jesus Christ;
Who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor;
Who went about doing good and preaching the Good News of God;
Who was tempted in all things as we are;
Whose obedience included death on the cross;
Who was dead, yet lives for all time;
Who invites us into Life as His gift;
Who daily loves us!
And so our prayer is one of adoration and praise because it is mingled with the finiteness of our human destiny. We praise Your Holy Name, O God, and thank You for the life and compassion of Your Son, and the Presence of Your Comforter during our days. Amen.

A LENTEN KYRIE (said responsively)

Forgive the poverty of our worship, the formality of our prayer, our unbelief and hesitating witness,

R/ Lord, have mercy upon us.

Forgive us when we waste our time and misuse our gifts and talents. Forgive us when we lightly excuse our own wrongdoing,

R/ Lord, have mercy upon us.

Forgive us that so little of Your love rubs off on others through us, and that we have borne so lightly wrongs and sufferings that were not our own. Forgive us when we cherish the things that divide us from others and for making it hard for others to live with us,

R/ Lord, have mercy upon us.

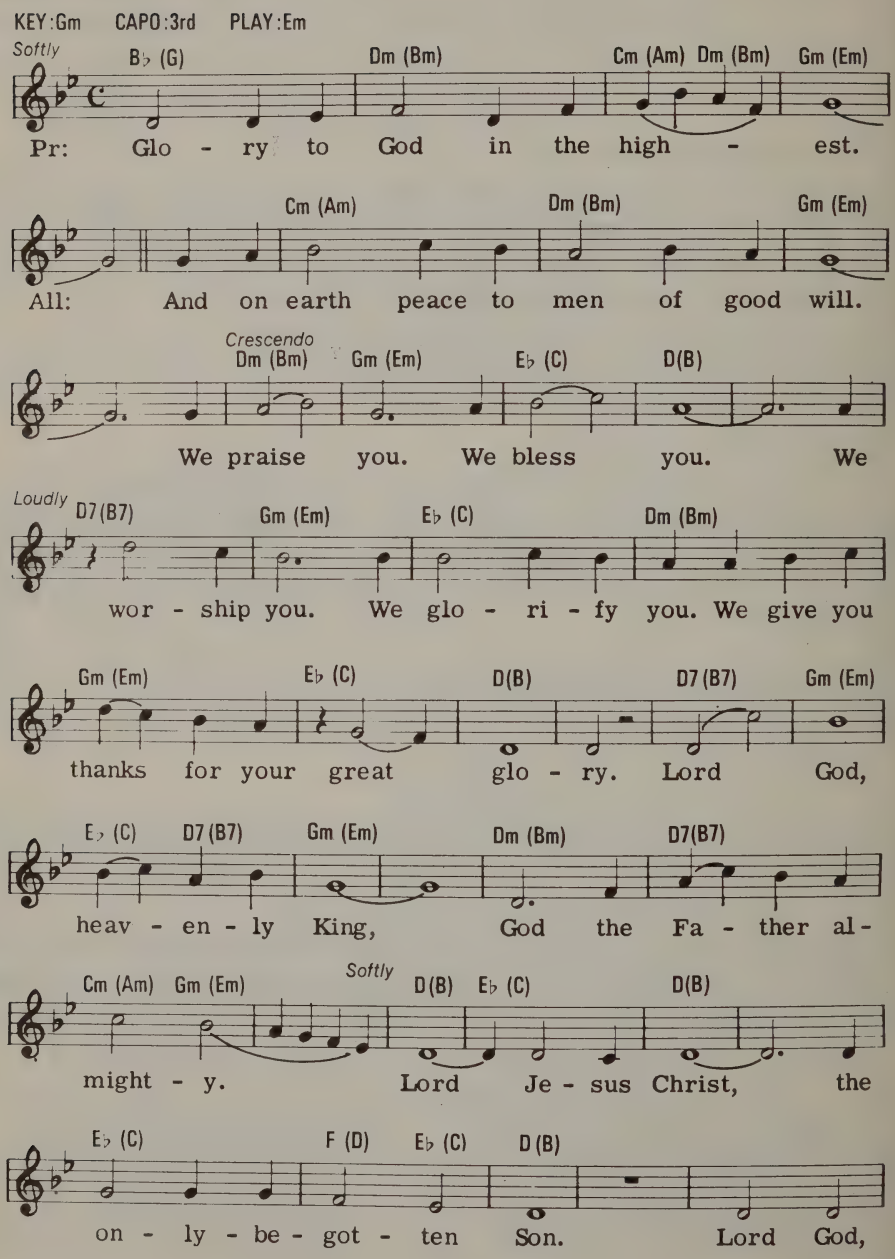
(silence for brief confession)

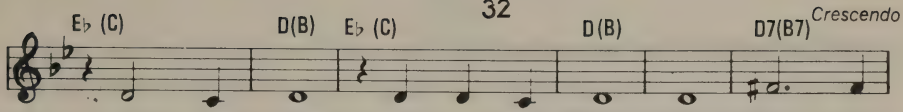
If we walk in the light, as He is the light, we have fellowship with one another,

R/ So may it be, Amen.

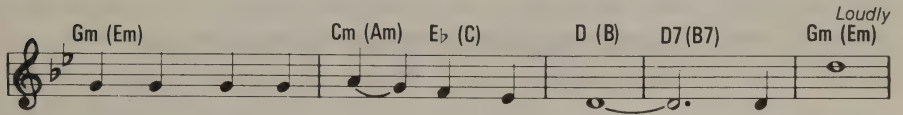
GLORY TO GOD (GLORIA)

Paul Quinlan, S.J.

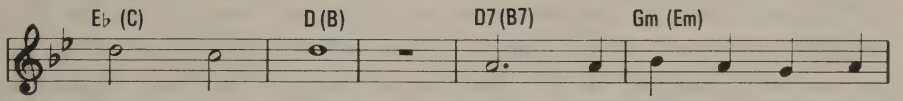




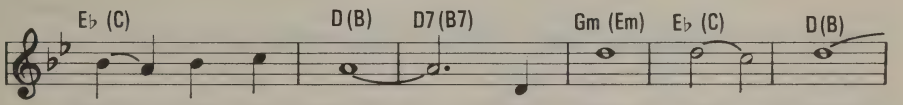
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther. You, who



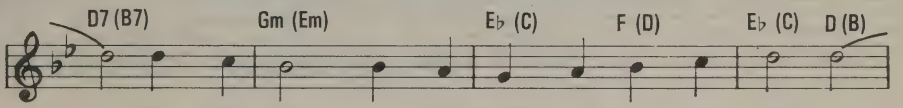
take a - way the sins of the world, have mer -



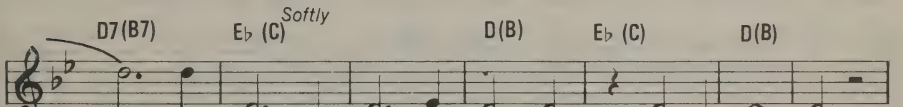
cy on us. You, who take a - way the



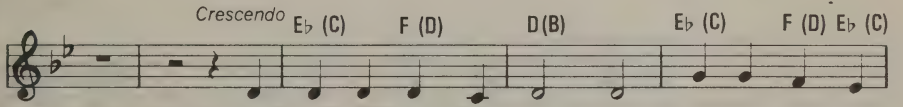
sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



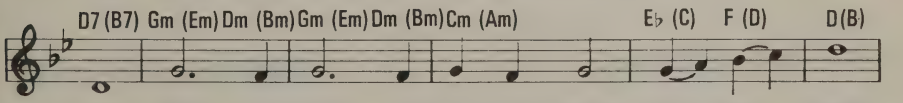
You, who sit at the right hand of the Fa - ther,



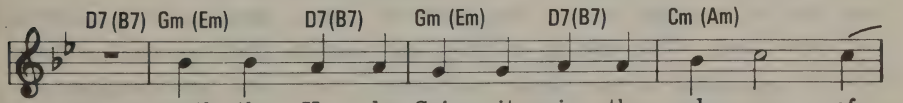
have mer - cy on us.



For you a - lone are ho - ly. You a - lone are



Lord. You a - lone, O Je - sus Christ, are most high,



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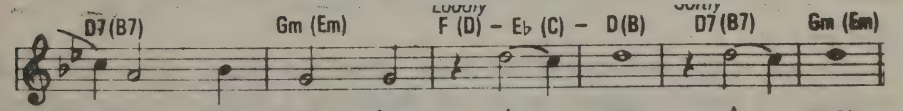

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

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THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

THE EPISTLE FOR LENT

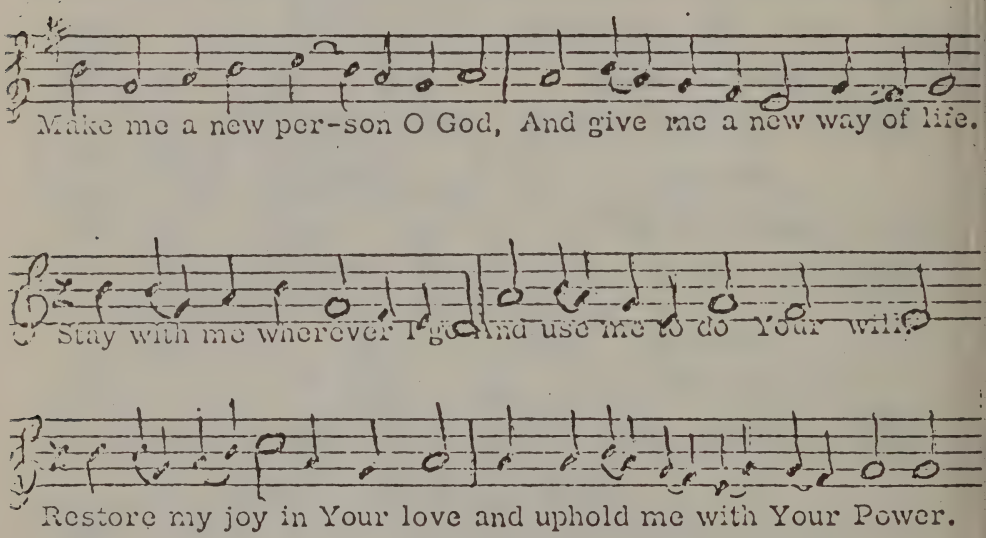
THE GOSPEL Say or sing before: Glory to You O Lord
(rise) Say or sing after: Praise to You O Christ

THE APOSTLES' CREED page 44

HYMN

LENTEN MEDITATION or first-person sermon

OFFERTORY response (sung at the presentation of the gifts)



THE INTERCESSIONS Minister of the Laity

THE COVENANT RENEWED (The Minister shall say)
And now let us again take the yoke of Christ upon us in a Covenant with our God. The taking of this yoke means that we are content that He appoints us our place and work, and that the freedom we know in Him is the very rich reward of living with integrity and peace.
Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others difficult; some bring honor, others reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both.

In some we may please Christ and please ourselves, in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is provided us in Christ, who strengthens us. Therefore let us make the Covenant of God our own. Let us engage our heart to the Lord and our hand to our brother.

(here the people join in prayer together)
I am no longer my own but Yours, O God. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for You or set aside for You, exalted for You or brought low for You; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely yield all things to Your pleasure.
And now, O bless'd God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. And the Covenant which I make and renew during the days of the remembrance of Your passion, let it be ratified within the free expressions of trust. Amen.

BENEDICTION (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Now to him who is able to do far more than all that we would ask or think, in accordance with the power that works in us, to him be glory in the church through Jesus Christ for all ages, to the end of time. Amen.

HYMN

POSTLUDE

MIDWEEK WORSHIP in LENT

---

by The Community of Christ the Servant, Butterfield Road, Downers Grove, Illinois.

WORSHIP

BLESSING OF THE FOOD FOR FELLOWSHIP

INVOCATION

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: O Jesus Christ, Lord of all good life: enrich and purify our lives and deepen our discipleship. Make us humble, brave and loving.

People: Amen.

Leader: From lack of reverence for truth and beauty; from prejudice and sentimentalism; from contentment with the mean and ugly,

People: O Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From the cowardice that dares not face new truth, the laziness contented with half-truth and the arrogance that thinks it knows it all,

People: O Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From artificiality in life and worship; from all that is unreal and lacking in integrity,

People: O Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From being dull and pompous; from being rude, offensive and ill-mannered,

People: O Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From the blasphemy of cynicism about our brothers; from all false pride, intolerance and contempt,

People: O Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From the false piety which cannot laugh; from being self-centered in our pity; from being narrowly ecclesiastical; and from loving systems more than we love You,

People: O Lord, deliver us.

Leader: From the disloyalty of being satisfied with things as they are, in the church and the world; and from failing to share Your indignation,

People: Forgive us, O God, and restore us as Your own. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION: from various places in Scripture

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (together)
We confess Jesus Christ, Savior of men and light of the world;
Together we accept his command;
We commit ourselves anew to bear witness to him among men;
We offer ourselves to serve all men in love, that love which he alone imparts;
We accept afresh our calling to make visible our unity in him;
We pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for our task.
(1961 W.C.C. statement, New Delhi, India)

HYMN

BIBLICAL READING Minister of the Laity

SERMON, DIALOGUE OR READING

INFORMAL DIALOGUE within the Community

PRAYERS

COLLECT FOR PEACE (together)
Lord, allow your servant to go away in peace, as You have promised by Your Word. My eyes have been opened to see what salvation is, salvation prepared for Your people; A light to bring understanding to men, for Your glory. Glory to the Father, and the Son and to the Comforter. Lord, allow Your servant to go away this night in peace.

OUR FATHER (together)
Our Father in heaven, Holy be Your Name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever, Amen.

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

HYMN

(Please return this booklet to an usher. Thank you)

ORDER FOR BAPTISM OF INFANTS

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastoral prayer:
Beloved, the words of Christ are these: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.

Since all men are alienated from God as well as from man, God has provided His own Son as the Reconciler for us all. In Jesus' death we find the gift of Life, and in this sacrament of baptism we acknowledge God's Presence and His acceptance of this child as His own.

- The sign of the cross may then be placed on the child's forehead. Receive the sign of life and hereafter come to know the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of Christ's suffering. The promises of God are for you. By baptism, God puts His seal upon you.

- People all rise for prayer.

Almighty God, our Father, we call upon You for the sake of this child, and we ask You to bestow upon him the gift of life, and Your everlasting grace through this earthly washing. Help us do Your work of love as children of the heavenly Father, and guide this family and community in the years ahead as they act as agents of Your grace toward the child. We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

- A representative of the Christian community may now face the people with the pastor and family, and say:

Fellow members of the Church of Jesus Christ, our Lord has commanded us to serve in His love and to teach His will and Word to all who are baptized in His Name. Do you promise, therefore, because you are the Church here, to declare the gracious Word of Life to this child, to love him, and to assist these parents, that in time, he might confirm his trust in God through Jesus Christ?

-The people may answer together: We will, by God's help.

- Pastor and people pray together:

O God, we are called from death to life because of Your Son. We are grateful people. Remind us of the largeness of this gift and keep us from attempting to pay it back, as if we could. Instead, O Father, make us ever more thankful and willing recipients of Your love, day by day. Amen.

- Pastor says:

As parents (and those who stand alongside to help to represent the faithful intent of the Church), you now present you son for holy baptism. You do so in love for him and trust in God's promises. Therefore, I charge you to be faithful in this love and trust. During the childs formative years, may you be filled with the grace to bring him to the teachings of the Church and the will of God as seen through the scriptures. Take him with you as a family to worship in God's house and help him to perceive the love by which he is loved in the New Agreement God has made in baptism. Urge him to remain in true fellowship with all of the people of God, serving man and being strengthened by the Word and the sacraments I therefore call upon you to answer in his place:

First, do you acknowledge that life without God is demonic?

answer: I do.

Then, do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and do you find in Him the grace which makes you children of God and possessors of an eternal destiny?

answer: I do.

And, do you now wish your child to be baptized in His Name?

answer: I do.

_____, I Baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- The blessing and laying on of hands:

This child of God is now received into the holy catholic Church. See what love the Father gives that we should be called the children of God; and so we are!

-Pastor prays, as follows:

Merciful Father, giver of life, who has called us to Your own, we pray for Your child _____. Watch over him and guide him all the days of his life, that he may grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gracious God, whose will is our peace, we pray for You servants _____ and _____ to whom You have entrusted the care of this child. Enable them to know You that they may love with Your love, teach Your truth, and guide their child in the way of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, Father of us all; remind all gathered here of the promises given in our own baptisms, and renew daily our trust in You, that we may be strong to serve even the least of Your brethren whose need we make our own as Your servants in this world. In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we praise Your Name and ask these blessings this day. Amen.

- The benediction:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven.
Holy be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us in the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the
power and the glory forever.
Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, Almighty Father, Creator of
heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our
Lord, who was conceived by the power of
the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered and was crucified under
Pontius Pilate.
He died and was buried.
He went to the dead, and the third day
He rose again.
He entered into heaven and sits at the
right hand of God, the Almighty Father.
He will come again to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life eternal. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only - begotten Son of God.
Born of the Father before all ages.
God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven.
And he became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: and was made man.
He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried.
And on the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.
And of his kingdom there will be no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and who spoke through the prophets.
And one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
And I await the resurrection of the dead.
And the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF AN EASTER COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

SONG OR HYMN

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOOD NEWS lay reader

BRIEF HOMILY on the News of God and man

(time of silent meditation and reflection. Prepare for worship)

Leader: We declare ourselves to be an Easter community
R/ We are here because Jesus of Nazareth has been met today in our own world.

Leader: We declare ourselves to be men of history
R/ And we see that it is in our history that He confronts us.

Leader: We declare our special need to respond to pain, despair, compassion and hope in our world
R/ And to be free to live for those in whom the Christ also lives.

Leader: So it becomes our intent to examine the history of today; to see our responsibility in shaping events, and to express before God and our brother our concerns unfulfilled as well as our joys made real
R/ And to know more deeply the realities of the Christ whose real and daily world this is! Amen.

The Lord be with you

R/ And with all people

Let us pray:

RECOGNITION

Lord, we come to face the constant reminders of our situation. Hear us as we confess our human condition

(first reading)

This is our human situation
R/ Lord, have mercy on us and hear us as we pray for these our brothers.

(second reading)

This is our human situation
R/ Lord, have mercy on us and hear us as we pray for these our brothers.

(third reading)

This is our human situation
R/ Lord, have mercy on us and hear us as we pray for these our brothers.

(fourth reading)

This is our human situation
R/ Lord, have mercy on us and hear us as we pray for these our brothers.

HOPE

Father, so much of what we read in the newspaper gives evidence that fulfillment of human life is a possibility and does occur. Hear us then as we celebrate some evidence of our hope in the news we make today.

(fifth reading)

Let us celebrate the possibility of human fulfillment in our world.
R/ We are glad, Father, for this evidence. We pray for those who receive its benefit.

(sixth reading)

Let us celebrate the possibility of human fulfillment in our world.
R/ We are glad, Father, for this evidence. We pray for those who receive its benefit.

(seventh reading)

Let us celebrate the possibility of human fulfillment in our world.
R/ We are glad, Father, for this evidence. We pray for those who receive its benefit.

(eight reading)

Let us celebrate the possibility of human fulfillment in our world.
R/ We are glad, Father, for this evidence. We pray for those who receive its benefit.

(ninth reading)
Let us celebrate the possibility of human fulfillment in our world.
R/ We are glad, Father, for this evidence. We pray for those who receive its benefit.
(tenth reading)
Let us celebrate the possibility of human fulfillment in our world.
R/ We are glad, Father, for this evidence. We pray for those who receive its benefit.

FREEDOM
We live in a time of radical change. Thus we learn to take risks. We search the news for indications of trust, of peace and of the freedom from God to offer each other absolution.

(eleventh reading)
For such times when we are free to love and to serve,
R/ O Christ, we give thanks. Give us this inner peace that we too may be liberated for brotherhood.
(twelfth reading)
For such times when we are free to love and to serve,
R/ O Christ, we give thanks. Give us this inner peace that we too may be liberated for brotherhood.
(thirteenth reading)
For such times when we are free to love and to serve,
R/ O Christ, we give thanks. Give us this inner peace that we too may be liberated for brotherhood.

A HYMN OR SONG MAY BE SUNG

During the singing an OFFERING FOR THE WORLD may be received. It shall be placed on the altar. A silent or verbal prayer may then be offered.

RESPONSIBILITY
To be a responsible man is to be a responsive listener! Teach us to listen to each other, Father. Not always does this world of Yours cry out in clear tones. Often our brothers need becomes muted, and sometimes it is couched in the blatant language of the man who is too sure of himself. Help us to listen and to act in love toward all who may interrupt our next week.

(fourteenth reading)

This is the call of need which crys out for compassion and understanding this day.

R/ Lord, we take responsibility for this event in life. We acknowledge the need it manifests and intend to live for those involved in it.

(fifteenth reading)

This is the call of need which crys out for compassion and understanding this day.

R/ Lord, we take responsibility for this event in life. We acknowledge the need it manifests and intend to live for those involved in it.

(sixteenth reading)

This is the call of need which crys out for compassion and understanding this day.

R/ Lord, we take responsibility for this event in life. We acknowledge the need it manifests and intend to live for those involved in it.

(seventeenth reading)

This is the call of need which crys out for compassion and understanding this day.

R/ Lord, we take responsibility for this event in life. We acknowledge the need it manifests and intend to live for those involved in it.

(together)

Our Father in heaven, holy be Your Name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory
forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

We have met Jesus of Nazareth, and for that reason the concerns of the whole world are our concerns.

R/ In the prayers of this community we give our intention to live for others.

The Lord be with you. Go. You are free!

A SONG OR HYMN may be sung.

(The idea and form for this liturgy is from Ted McEachern in his book Being There for Others)

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The experimental liturgies of the community of Christ the Servant

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